



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

May 21, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS APPOINTMENTS

OLYMPIA – Governor Chris Gregoire recently announced the following appointment and reappointments to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Darren Pen resides in Tacoma, Washington. He is the South End Tacoma Community Mobilization Specialist for the Safe Streets Campaign. As an active member in the community, Pen has served as the President of the Khmer Community of Tacoma and as the founder of the International Communities Organization of Cambodia. He is also a former board member of Mercy Housing Northwest, the Khmer Development Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Food Bank of Pierce County and council member of the Central Neighborhood Councils for City of Tacoma. He received a Theology Certificate from the North American Evangelism Division Institute.

Debadutta Dash, who resides in Seattle, Washington, is reappointed to a second term. He works for the Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide as the Group Sales Manager and Service culture trainer at the Westin Hotel in Bellevue. He is the co-chair of the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee and founder of the South Asian Music and Performing Arts Resource Center. He is a board member of the Asian Counseling Referral Service and the previous president of the India Association of Western Washington.

Pearl Leung, who resides in Seattle, Washington, is reappointed to a second term. She works as the Community Relations Manager at Vulcan Inc; a board member to the Low Income Housing Institute and the South Lake Union Community Council. She assisted in starting the South Lake Union Chamber of Commerce by organizing the first networking event at the SLU Discovery Center. She has a master's degree in urban planning/real estate development from the University of Washington.

Jeannie Lee, who resides in Lacey, Washington, is reappointed to a second term. She is a member of the Sharing Love Foundation, the Federal Way Korean American Association, and an organizer of the Hanwoori Festival. Previously, she was in the military and served as a Sergeant Major. Her assignments have taken her to Korea, Germany, and China. Lee is a graduate from Dong Myung Girls High School in Seoul. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Webster University and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Maryland University.

Sofia Aragon, who resides in Olympia, Washington, is reappointed to a second term. She is the Senior Governmental Affairs Advisor for the Washington State Nurses Association which represents over 16,000 registered nurses and nurse practitioners in the state. Prior to this position, she was the Legislative and Policy Manager for the Community and Family Health Division at the Department of Health. She earned a B.A. in Economics from the University of Washington and a B.S. in Nursing from Seattle University and a Juris Doctorate from Loyola University - Chicago School of Law.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

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Agency Overview

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12- governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.